

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /084 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5428

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TIEN AN MEN

REF: PEKING 0599

1. SITUATION AS OF 1600 HOURR LOCAL APRIL 6.FAR MORE PEOPLE THAN NORMAL TIMES, BUT ONLY A FEW THOUSAND AT MOST , MOVED THROUGH AND MILLED ABOUT IN TIEN AN MEN SWUARE ON APRIL 6. THEY CONCENTRATED AT THE MARTYRS MONUMENT (WHERE A SINGLE, TOKEN WREATH REMAINED IN PLACEBL AND NEAR THE BUILDING IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER THAT HAD BEEN SACKED AND PARTLY BURNED (INTERIOR OF THE FRONT ENTRANCE AREA) THE EVENING BEFORE. FOREIGNERS VISITING THE SQUARE, PARTICULARLY JOURNALISTS WHO SINCE YESTERDAY HAVE BEEN RUNNING COOPERATIVE COVERAGE OF THE SCENE THERE, SENSED THAT THEY WERE WELL ADVISED TO KEEP MOVING. A FEW FOREIGNERS GOT INTO HASSLES WITH ROVING TEENAGERS. REPORTEDLY THERE WAS ONE MINOR INCIDENT IN WHICH PLA GUARDS REPULSED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY A SMALL BAND OF YOUTHS TRYING TO GAIN ENTRY INTO EITHER THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE OR THE HISTORY MUSEUM. ALONG THE APPROACHES TO THE SQUARE, MANY IDLERS SAT OR STOOD WAITING OR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN AND PERHAPS JUST GNEERALLY SAVORING THE CHANGE FROM PEKING'S USUAL MONOTONY.

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WU TEH'S SPEECH (REFTEL) WAS REBROADCAST IN THE SQUARE SEVERAL

TIMES AT MID-DAY.

2. THE FINAL CLEARING OF THE SQUARE LAST NIGHT APPARENTLY DID NOT OCCUR UNTIL AROUND 0030 HOURS. ACCORDING TO A WESTERN DIPLOMAT WHO WITNESSED IT, MILITIA "SLICED INTO" DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD REMAINED IN THE SQUARE, , CHIEFLY AT THE MARTYRS' MONUMENT, AND MARCHED THEM, SURROUNDED, IN GROUPS OF 40 TO 60 INTO THE IMPERIAL CITY. MILITIA CARRYING PICKHANDLES OR STAVES WERE SEEN AS LATE AS 0500 IN THE SOUTHERN APPROACHES TO THE SQUARE, BUT RETIRED FROM VIEW SOON THEREAFTER. THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AMPLE FORCES CLOSE BY, BUT THESE ARE NOT ON DISPLAY.

3. THE WESTERN DIPLOMAT CITED IN PARA 2 ALSO SAW CARS IN FRONT OF THE GREAT HALL AT 0030 AND MANY LIGHTED WINDOWS IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE BUILDING, INDICATION OF A LEADERSHIP MEETING IN PROGRESS. USLO OFFICERS WHO DROVE PAST THE HALL AT 2300 APRIL 5 HAD NOT SEEN ANY CARS, ALTHOUGH A LARGE ROOM IN THE SAME CORNER OF THE BUILDING WAS FULLY LIT. AROUND 1000 APRIL 6 THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT A LEADERSHIP MEETING WAS UNDER WAY INSIDE THE HALL.
THOMAS

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